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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

JESS ELIJIO CARRANZA,
JIMMY CARTER KIM,

Plaintiffs/Petitioners,

v.

WARDEN BRIAN KOEHN,

Defendant/Respondent.

Case No. 2:20-cv-01586-GMN-DJA

**DEFENDANT KOEHN REPLY IN
SUPPORT OF MOTION TO STAY
EXPEDITED DISCOVERY (DKT. 37)**

Plaintiffs' Opposition to Motion for Stay fails to show that a brief stay of the Magistrate Judge's November 9, 2020 Order requiring Warden Koehn¹ to provide responses to Plaintiffs' requests for production and to allow an in-person site visit on an expedited basis is not warranted.

¹ As stated in n. 2 of Warden Koehn's Motion to Stay (Doc. 37), Warden Koehn is no longer the Warden of NSDC. Because he was sued in his official capacity only (Doc. 1 at 4:1-2), the new warden is automatically substituted in for him as the Defendant. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 25(d). Because the Court has not yet ordered the caption amended, however, and because a new Warden has not been named (Interim Warden Leibach is currently serving in the capacity of Warden, but has not been named the new warden of NSDC), this Reply, like the underlying Motion, continues to refer to the Defendant in this matter as Warden Koehn.

Moreover, the Magistrate Judge stated at the November 9 hearing that he would not expect expedited discovery to continue while the Objection is pending. (Doc. 35 at 29:19–24.) The Court should therefore enter a brief stay of the November 9 Order until the District Judge has ruled on Warden Koehn’s Objection.

I. LEGAL ARGUMENT

At the November 9 hearing, counsel for Warden Koehn made it clear that Warden Koehn is “not objecting to the conduct of discovery,” but rather “to this rapid schedule ... with which petitioners would have [Warden Koehn] respond, which is the same period of time that the rules allow [Warden Koehn] to file objections with the – with the district judge.” (Doc. 35 at 26:13–18.) After further discussion, the Magistrate Judge asked whether, if he set the deadline to respond to Plaintiffs’ requests for production as November 23, and the deadline to allow the site visit as December 9, that would give Warden Koehn sufficient time to object and bring the issue to the District Judge’s attention. (Doc. 35 at 28:11–25.) Counsel responded that although it would give him sufficient time to file an objection and a motion to stay, it was unclear whether those filings would be resolved before the deadlines so that Warden Koehn was not “violating an order by not producing the documents by the deadline or not conducting the site visit ... by the deadline.” (Id. at 29:3–18.)

The Magistrate Judge responded by stating that he would not “take a position that [Warden Koehn has] somehow violated [his] order by not [providing the discovery] when Judge Navarro’s deciding whether or not she’s going to allow it. So that shouldn’t be a concern for [Warden Koehn].” (Id. at 29:19–24.) The Magistrate Judge went on to state that “it certainly wouldn’t be [his] intent to, while that’s being litigated, [Plaintiffs] get to do their site inspection. That – that’s certainly not the intent of the Court.” (Id. at 30:1–4.)

Consistent with those statements, Warden Koehn filed a Motion for Stay with his Objection that sought to stay enforcement of the Magistrate Judge’s November 9 Order while his Objection is pending, which Plaintiffs have opposed. For the reasons set forth below and in the underlying Motion, a brief stay is appropriate, and should be granted.

1 **A. No Damage Will Result From a Stay.**

2 Plaintiffs fail to show that they will be harmed by a brief stay of expedited discovery
3 while the District Judge considers Warden Koehn's Objection. They provide no evidence
4 suggesting that they are in any particular danger at NSDC. Instead, they rely on vague statements
5 about the state of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States generally and accuse Warden
6 Koehn of "ignor[ing] the pandemic and these harms completely."

7 Plaintiffs are incorrect. Warden Koehn has already provided extensive evidence of the
8 policies and procedures that have been implemented since the start of the pandemic to mitigate
9 the risk of COVID-19 at NSDC, including evidence regarding the medical care that has been
10 provided to Plaintiffs in particular. (Doc. 12, 13.) When the Court dismissed Plaintiffs' habeas
11 claims and allowed the civil claims for declaratory and injunctive relief to proceed, it gave no
12 indication that they needed to be resolved on an expedited basis, despite having both Plaintiffs'
13 claims and Warden Koehn's response at its disposal. (Doc. 24.)

14 Plaintiffs argue that they intend to file a motion for preliminary injunctive relief, but need
15 the expedited discovery to identify the specific measures upon which to seek relief, and are being
16 harmed by their inability to do so. But Plaintiffs' argument is an implicit concession that they do
17 not know whether current conditions at NSDC actually warrant such relief, making their request
18 for expedited discovery little more than a fishing expedition. *See Lucero-Gonzalez v. Kline*, 464
19 F. Supp. 3d 1078, 1093 & n.24 (denying the plaintiffs' motion for temporary restraining order and
20 preliminary injunction in part because the plaintiffs had not "made the requisite showing that they
21 are likely to succeed on the merits of their claims at this time," and stating that "notwithstanding
22 the clear risks posed by COVID-19, that Plaintiffs seek an expert to determine 'whether'
23 Defendants have violated their rights smacks of a fishing expedition"). Moreover, as noted above,
24 Plaintiffs fail to show any specific harms that are likely to result to them as a result of the brief
25 stay of expedited discovery Warden Koehn seeks.

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B. Warden Koehn Will Be Prejudiced By Being Required to Proceed With Expedited Discovery.

Plaintiffs completely ignore Warden Koehn's arguments regarding the breadth and burden of their discovery requests. There are not "about 20" requests for production, as Plaintiffs asserted during the November 9 hearing. (Doc. 35 at 7:7.) Rather, due to their compound nature, there are well over 40 discrete requests. They are not narrowly tailored to the injunctive relief Plaintiffs intend to seek, and cannot be, as even Plaintiffs are not yet sure what specific relief they intend to seek in their forthcoming motion for preliminary injunction. The same is true of Plaintiffs' request for an in-person site visit, during which Plaintiffs want their expert to be able to view all areas of the facility and interview "10 to 15 detainees and 10 to 15 staff members" over a period of at least a full business day, even though this lawsuit only involves two detainees. (Doc. 35 at 9:5–16.)

Warden Koehn is not, as Plaintiffs imply, objecting to all discovery of any sort. Rather, as stated both at the November 9 hearing and in Warden Koehn's Objection, he is objecting to the unnecessarily expedited nature of the discovery, and to being ordered to provide the discovery (including both the written requests and the site visit) on an expedited basis without having first been provided advance notice and an opportunity to be fully and fairly heard on the issue. (Doc. 35 at 26:13–18; Doc. 36; Doc. 47-1.) The brief stay being sought by Warden Koehn will protect Warden Koehn's right to due process and minimize the burden by allowing him to fully and fairly brief these issues without having to gather burdensome information sought by Plaintiffs on an expedited basis and prepare for and participate in a burdensome site visit at the same time.

C. The Orderly Course of Justice Will Be Served by a Brief Stay.

Again, Plaintiffs appear to be under the mistaken impression that Warden Koehn is objecting to all discovery of any type in this matter. He is not. By allowing the District Judge to rule on Warden Koehn's Objection before requiring him to respond to Plaintiffs' requests for production and allow the site visit on an expedited basis, Warden Koehn's right to seek review of the Magistrate Judge's Order will be preserved. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A); Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(a); LR IB 3-1(a). And should the District Judge agree that Warden Koehn's right to due

process was violated, the parties can then meet and confer pursuant to Rule 26(f) to develop a proposed discovery schedule that provides Plaintiffs with the information they need without imposing an undue burden on Warden Koehn.

II. CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above and in the underlying Motion to Stay, Warden Koehn respectfully requests that the Court briefly stay the expedited discovery ordered by the Magistrate Judge until the District Judge has ruled on Warden Koehn's Objection to the November 9 Order.

DATED this 14th day of December, 2020.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on December 14, 2020, I electronically transmitted the attached document to the Clerk's Office using the CM/ECF System for filing and transmittal of a Notice of Electronic Filing to the following CM/ECF registrants:

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